Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 053457
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 USIE-00 /032 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:RONEILL:RGH/DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
----------102203Z 113052 /73
O 102032Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 053457

FOR ATHERTON FROM SHERMAN, NEA/P

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MARCH 10 PRESS PLAY OF PRESIDENT'S MIDDLE EAST REMARKS

1. THE MAJOR NEWSPAPERS MARCH 10 GIVE PROMINENCE TO THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS MARCH 9 ABOUT IDEAS ON A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, THOUGH WASHINGTON POST RELEGATION OF DON OBERDORFER'S ACCOUNT TO PAGE 8 AND HIS RELATIVELY BRIEF ACCOUNT OF WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID REFLECT THE GENERAL PRESS AND PUBLIC ABSORPTION HERE IN THE CONTINUING TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN WASHINGTON. FOLLOWING ARE THE LEAD PARAGRAPHS AND MAIN POINTS MADE IN EACH OF THE NEWS ARTICLES IN NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, W.S.J., BALTIMORE SUN, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, AS WELL AS FULL TEXTS OF TWO SHORT EDITORIALS, ONE IN THE BALTIMORE SUN, THE OTHER IN THE MONITOR.

2. NEW YORK TIMES, P. 1, BY BERNARD GWERTZMAN:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 053457

HEADLINE - "CARTER SUGGESTS PLAN TO LET ISRAEL KEEP DEFENSE LINE IN ARAB LAND."

LEAD PARAGRAPH - "PRESIDENT CARTER TODAY OUTLINED A NEW APPROACH TO A MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A

SOVEREIGN AND RECOGNIZED BORDER BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

ARAB COUNTRIES BUT WOULD ALSO ALLOW A POSSIBILITY OF ISRAELI DEFENSES EXTENDED BEYOND THOSE FRONTIERS 'FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.' "

MAIN COMMENTS IN THE ARTICLE, WHICH ITSELF SINGLED OUT PRESIDENT'S MIDDLE EAST REMARKS AS THE MAIN NEWS AMONG OTHER ITEMS COVERED IN THE WHOLE PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE:

--PRESIDENT'S REMARKS REPRESENTED A PUBLIC AMERICAN CONCEPT OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

--CARTER'S COMMENTS CAME AS A MAJOR SURPRISE TO STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND TO ISRAELIS WHO HAD JUST CONCLUDED DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. CARTER.

--RABIN REFUSED DIRECT COMMENT TO REPORTERS BUT ALLUDED TO CARTER'S STATEMENTS IN SPEECH AT AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS LUNCHEON, STATING THAT IN THE END IT WAS "UP TO THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO MAKE FINAL DECISIONS".

--ISRAELIS WERE GRUMBLING ABOUT PRESIDENT'S USE OF "ONLY MINOR ADJUSTMENTS", IN 1967 BOUNDARIES.

--MIDDLE EAST IDEAS OUTLINED BY CARTER WERE VAGUE AND SEEMED TO AMPLIFY HIS COMMENTS OF LAST MONDAY WHEN HE SAID ISRAEL SHOULD HAVE 'DEFENSIBLE BORDERS'.

--CARTER REFUSED TO SPECIFY HOW ISRAELI DEFENSES SHOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 053457

GUARANTEED BUT SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT CONFINE "THE DEFENSE CAPABILITY TO ISRAELI FORCES."

--SOME OF CARTER'S IDEAS HAD ELEMENTS OF ROGER'S PLAN.

--CARTER DID NOT DISCUSS PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA.

--CARTER HOPED THERE COULD BE PROGRESS TOWARDS RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE BY TIME OF ISRAELI ELECTIONS IN MAY.

GWERTZMAN REPORTED FOLLOWING "PRINCIPLES" LAID OUT BY CARTER:

--ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WITH ONLY MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN PRE-1967 BOUNDARIES.

--ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT MIGHT TAKE AS MANY AS EIGHT YEARS.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

UNTIL THEN ISRAEL COULD HAVE "DEFENSE LINES" THAT "MAY BE EXTENSIONS OF ISRAELI DEFENSE CAPABILITY BEYOND THE PERMANENT AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS."

--THE TERM DEFENSIBLE BORDERS AND SECURE BORDERS IS A MATTER OF SEMANTICS -- THE ACTUAL DEFINITION OF BORDERS REMAINS TO BE DETERMINED. THE WORLD SHOULD RECOGNIZE THERE IS A "DISTINCTION" BETWEEN THE ACTUAL SOVEREIGN BORDERS AND THE "ABILITY OF ISRAEL TO DEFEND HERSELF BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT OR BY THE SOMETIME PLACEMENT OF ISRAELI FORCES THEMSELVES OR BY MONITORING STATIONS, AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE SINAI, BEYOND THE ACTUAL SOVEREIGNTY BORDERS."

--BEFORE AN ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT COULD BE REACHED IN TWO, FOUR OR EIGHT YEARS, THERE SHOULD BE SOME MUTUAL DEMONSTRATION OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND AN END TO

THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY.

3. WASHINGTON POST -- PAGE 8 -- BY DON OBERDORFER
HEADLINE: CARTER SEES ISRAEL YIELDING ARAB LANDS.
LEAD: "PRESIDENT CARTER FORECAST YESTERDAY THAT A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT IS LIKELY TO INVOLVE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL BUT "MINOR" PORTIONS OF THE ARAB TERRITORY IT CAPTURED IN 1967, BUT SUGGESTED THAT ISRAEL'S PULLBACK MAY BE PHASED OVER EIGHT YEARS OR MORE."

MAIN POINTS:

--CARTER APPEARED TO BE ALIGNING HIS STATEMENTS TOWARD POLICIES AND THINKING OF PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS AND BACKING AWAY FROM ENDORSEMENTS MONDAY OF 'DEFENSIBLE BORDERS'.

--DEMILITARIZED ZONES OCCUPIED BY "INTERNATIONAL FORCES" AND ELECTRONIC LISTENING POSTS COULD BE PART OF AN AGREEMENT.

--CARTER WILL DISCUSS THESE POSSIBILITIES WITH ARAB LEADERS WHEN THEY VISIT WASHINGTON.

--CARTER SOUGHT TO DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN PERMANENT, RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES AND INTERIM BOUNDARIES, BUT AT NO POINT WOULD HE GIVE A GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HE HAD IN MIND.

--IN COMMENTS BEFORE AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS, PRIME MINISTER RABIN APPEARED TO PUT CARTER ON NOTICE THAT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

ISRAEL RATHER THAN THE UNITED STATES WILL MAKE CRUCIAL
DECISIONS.

4. BALTIMORE SUN -- PAGE 1 BY HENRY TREWITT:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 053457

HEADLINE - "CARTER MIDEAST PROPOSAL ENVISIONS 2-WAY
BORDERS."

LEAD: "PRESIDENT CARTER TURNED THE MIDDLE EAST DEBATE IN
A NEW DIRECTION YESTERDAY BY SUGGESTING THAT ISRAEL AND
ARAB COUNTRIES MIGHT AGREE ON POLITICAL AND MILITARY
BOUNDARIES THAT ARE QUITE DIFFERENT."

MAIN POINTS:
--AMERICAN SPECIALISTS WERE LEFT WORRIED THAT THE PRESIDENT

HAD SPECULATED TOO MUCH IN PUBLIC.

--THE PRESIDENT APPEARED TO SUBSCRIBE FULLY TO ISRAELI
POSITION ON ULTIMATE ARAB-ISRAELI RELATIONS.

--ISRAELI DIPLOMATS WERE SURPRISED AND SAID THE IMPLICA-
TIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'TS REMARKS WERE FAR FROM CLEAR,
BUT AMERICAN OFFICIALS UNDERSTOOD THAT HE WAS EXPANDING
ON CONCEPTS LONG FAMILIAR TO MIDEAST PLANNERS.

--AMERICAN SOURCES SUGGESTED AREAS MENTIONED OVER THE
YEARS WHERE ISRAEL MIGHT KEEP FORCES COULD BE ON WEST
BANK AND SHARM EL-SHEIK.

THE PRESIDENT MADE THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

--ISRAEL MIGHT CONTINUE TO OCCUPY SOME TERRITORY AFTER
SOVEREIGNTY HAD BEEN RESTORED TO ARAB GOVERNMENTS.

--DEFENSE CAPABILITY COULD NOT BE CONFINED TO ISRAELI
FORCES BUT COULD INCLUDE INTERNATIONAL FORCES.

--INTERNATIONAL ZONES COULD BE ESTABLISHED.

--ELECTRONIC MONITORING DEVICES COULD BE EMPLOYED.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 053457

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

--A STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS OVER 8 OR MORE YEARS, INCLUDING AN INTERIM END-OF-STATE-OF-BELLIGERENCY AND AN ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT WITH BORDER DELINEATION.

5.
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, PAGE 1, BY GODFREY SPERLING.

HEADLINE - "CARTER'S APPROACH TO MIDEAST PLAN"

LEAD PARAGRAPH - "PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BROUGHT BACK THE MEANING OF "DEFENSIBLE BOUNDARIES" OF ISRAEL TO ABOUT WHAT IT HAD BEEN UNDER THE LAST THREE U.S. PRESIDENTS."

SPERLING COMMENTS THAT CARTER HAS BROUGHT BACK THE MEANING OF "DEFENSIBLE BORDERS" TO WHAT IT HAD BEEN IN PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS. HE MAKES THESE MAIN POINTS:

--THE PRESIDENT SAID HIS FIRST STEP TOWARDS PEACE WOULD COME LATER THIS YEAR WHEN HE WOULD MOUNT A LONG EFFORT TO END MIDEAST TENSIONS.

--HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH ISRAELI AND ARAB OFFICIALS BEFORE MAY.

--THIS EFFORT TOWARD PEACE SETTLEMENT WOULD BE "LONG, TEDIOUS PROCESS," AND HAD TO BEGIN BY ASSURING ISRAEL'S SURVIVAL. THAT HAD BEEN DONE IN TALKS WITH RABIN.

--CARTER'S FINAL OBJECTIVE APPEARS TO BE FOR ISRAEL TO GIVE UP MUCH OF THE LAND IT CAPTURED IN 1967 BUT WITH A BUFFER ZONE SET UP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS.

DANA ADAMS SCHMIDT COMMENTS IN THE SAME ARTICLE:

--THIS PLAN GOES FAR TO ACCOMMODATE ISRAELI DEMANDS.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

--ARAB DIPLOMATS SAY THE PRESIDENT APPEARS TO BE ADVANCING THE ALLON PLAN.

--THE PRESIDENT EMPHASIZES THAT THE PLAN MIGHT BE IMPLE-MENTED BY THE PARTIES INVOLVED AND THAT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS BETWEEN THEM WOULD BE DRAWN OUT.

6. WALL STREET JOURNAL -- PAGE 2 BY ROBERT KEATLEY:

HEADLINE: "CARTER SUGGESTS ISRAEL, ARABS DISTINGUISH BETWEEN TERRITORIAL AND DEFENSE LINES."

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

LEAD: "PRESIDENT CARTER HAS OUTLINED SOME MAJOR ASPECTS OF WHAT HE THINKS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A FINAL MIDEAST PEACE SETTLEMENT." KEATLEY COMMENTS THAT CARTER, IN AN IMPORTANT POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT, HAS OUTLINED U.S. POSITION ON A MIDEAST PEACE SETTLEMENT SIMILAR, BUT NOT IDENTICAL TO, ISRAELI DEMANDS. HE OBSERVES:

--THE INITIAL ARAB REACTION COULD BE NEGATIVE BUT THE LONG TERM EFFECT MAY BE BENEFICIAL.

--PRESIDENT SAID THAT ISRAEL MUST MAKE MAJOR -- NEAR TOTAL-- WITHDRAWALS.

--THE KEY CARTER STATEMENT SUGGESTING THAT THE TWO SIDES DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN TERRITORIAL BORDERS AND DEFENSE LINES HAS LONG BEEN PROPOSED BY YIGAL ALLON AND OTHER ISRAELI OFFICIALS BUT NEVER BEFORE ENDORSED BY THE U.S.

--THE PRESIDENT HAS LEFT OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT ISRAELI TROOPS COULD BE BASED SOMEWHERE INSIDE ARAB TERRITORY, PRESUMABLY AS A FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE OR AT LEAST FOR EARLY WARNING PURPOSES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

--ALLON HAS CITED ISRAEL'S NEED FOR BASES IN THE WEST BANK, GOLAN AND THE SINAI.

--THE PRESIDENT ALSO SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF MONI-TORING STATIONS, INTERNATIONAL FORCES IN DEMILITARIZED ZONES AS ONE WAY TO GIVE ISRAEL "DEFENSIBLE BORDERS."

--MR. CARTER DID NOT ENDORSE COMMONLY HELD ISRAELI DEFINI-TION OF DEFENSIBLE BORDERS. INSTEAD HE SAID AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT WOULD INVOLVE SUBSTANTIAL WITHDRAWALS OF ISRAEL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

--NEITHER DID THE PRESIDENT SAY THAT SPECIAL DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE PERMANENT.

--HE CAME CLOSE TO ENDORSING ISRAEL'S DEFINITION OF THE NATURE OF A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT.

A KEY PASSAGE FROM THE KEATLEY ARTICLE:

--"PREVIOUSLY, U.S. OFFICIALS HAD MERELY DISCUSSED THESE RIVAL CONCEPTS WITHOUT CHOOSING SIDES. NOT ONLY DID MR. CARTER MAKE AN IMPORTANT POLICY DECISION WHEN HE ACCEPTED THE ISRAELI VERSION -- A DECISION THAT WILL AFFECT THE FUTURE U.S. ROLE AS A MIDEAST MEDIATOR -- HE ONCE AGAIN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

DEPARTED FROM DIPLOMATIC NORMS...HE DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC SUBJECTS THAT FOREIGN POLICY OFFICIALS USUALLY TRY TO KEEP SECRET."

7. TEXT OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "CHARTING A MIDEAST PATH":

THE COMPLEX TASK OF CLEARING A PATHWAY FOR RESUMPTION OF ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AT GENEVA LATER THIS YEAR IS VISIBLY UNDER WAY. ONE STEP HAS BEEN ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN WASHING-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 053457

TON, WHERE THE TWO LEADERS REPORTEDLY GOT ALONG WELL PERSONALLY WHILE MAKING NO SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS ON KEY ISSUES. MR. RABIN CONCEDED THAT THE TIME IS RIPE FOR "MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS" AT GENEVA, BUT ADDED A CAUTIONARY NOTE: "LET'S BE CAREFUL. LET'S HOPE FOR THE BEST BUT BE REALISTIC IN PREPARATION FOR IT."

MR. CARTER, AT HIS SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE, SEEMED EAGER TO CONSIDER ALL OPTIONS AIMED AT ENDING THE LONG ARAB-ISRAELI STALEMATE, INCLUDING POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL WAYS TO GUARANTEE ISRAEL'S SECURITY.

CONCURRENTLY THERE HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT ON THE ARAB SIDE AS PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) LEADER YASSER ARAFAT AND JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN APPARENTLY PATCHED UP THEIR LONG-STANDING DIFFERENCES IN THE COURSE OF THE AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE IN CAIRO. THE TWO MEN AGREED TO ESTABLISHING A FORMAL LINK BETWEEN JORDAN AND THE PLO AND ALSO DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINAIAN STATE.

THIS BREAKTHROUGH IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THE ARABS' EFFORT TO PUT THEIR HOUSE IN ORDER PRELIMINARY TO ANOTHER BID FOR A MIDEAST PEACE SETTLEMENT AT GENEVA. SYRIA, EGYPT, AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE CREDITED WITH BEING HELPFUL IN BRINGING HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT TO THE POINT OF REACHING AN ACCOMMODATION. WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE PALESTINIANS LONG HAS BEEN ONE ROADBLOCK ON THE ROUTE TO A NEW ARAB-ISRAELI SUMMIT. THE MATTER IS NOT YET SETTLED, BUT AT LEAST THE

JORDAN-PLO RIFT, WHICH DATES BACK TO 1970, IS BEING MENDED.

ANOTHER MAJOR PITFALL IS ISRAEL'S INSISTENCE THAT IT MUST HAVE "DEFENSIBLE BORDERS," A POLICY REAFFIRMED BY MR. RABIN IN WASHINGTON. THIS PHRASE MEANS NOT GOING BACK
UNCLASSIFIED

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

TO ISRAEL'S PRE-1967 WAR BORDERS AND THUS NOT RETURNING ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY, A POSITION NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARAB NATIONS. THE ISRAELI LEADER SAID THE FINAL FRONTIERS IN HIS VIEW "DON'T COINCIDE IN ANY WAY" WITH THOSE BEFORE THE '67 WAR. MR. RABIN MAY HAVE FELT HE NEEDED TO TAKE A HARD POSITION IN VIEW OF THE COMING ISRAELI ELECTION.

MR. CARTER, BY HIS APPARENT ADVOCACY OF "DEFENSIBLE BORDERS," AT FIRST SEEMED TO STUMBLE INTO A THICKET OF SEMANTICS, THEREBY CAUSING CONCERN IN ARAB CIRCLES. HIS SUBSEQUENT ASSURANCES THAT NO CHANGE IN THE BASIC AMERICAN EVENHANDED APPROACH WAS IN PROSPECT SEEMS TO HAVE STILLED THAT CONCERN.

AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, MOREOVER, THE PRESIDENT SAID A STEP-BY-STEP SOLUTION MIGHT BE PURSUED BY MAKING A DISTINCTION BETWEEN ISRAEL'S LEGALLY RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES AND SECURE DEFENSE LINES PROTECTED BY SUCH MEANS AS MONITORING STATIONS (AS IN SINAI) OR INTERNATIONAL ZONES. ISRAEL AND THE ARABS DOUBTLESS WILL WANT TO PONDER SUCH RAMIFICATIONS.

MR. RABIN ALSO FIRMLY REJECTED PLO PARTICIPATION AT A GENEVA CONFERENCE, EVEN AS A PART OF A JORDANIAN DELEGATION. THIS INDICATED THAT MEDIATORS SUCH AS THE AMERICANS STILL FACE MANY DIFFICULT HURDLES IN THE COURSE OF TESTING -- AND ATTEMPTING TO RECONCILE -- THE INFLEXIBLE POSITIONS OF BOTH ARABS AND ISRAELIS.

MEANWHILE, THE CARTER-RABIN TALKS HAVE PRODUCED A JOINT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW ARMS SALES. THIS SEEMS LIKE A WISE PROVISION IN THE WAKE OF SUCH BILATERAL PROBLEMS AS U.S. REJECTION OF THE ISRAELI BID TO SELL ITS KFIR FIGHTER PLANES, POWERED BY AMERICAN ENGINES, TO ECUADOR, AND THE ISRAELI REQUEST TO PRODUCE IN ISRAEL 200 OF THE 250 NEW

U.S. FIGHTER PLANES IT WANTS.

LOOKING AHEAD, ONE NEXT STEP WILL BE THE MEETING OF ARAB STATES BORDERING ON ISRAEL, PLUS THE PLO, NOW SCHEDULED FOR DAMASCUS, SYRIA, NEXT MONTH. SINCE THIS SESSION WILL INCLUDE JORDAN, SYRIA, AND EGYPT, IT WILL PROVIDE ANOTHER REFERENCE POINT FOR MEASURING THE SUCCESS AND

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

IMPORT OF THE JORDAN-PLO ACCOMMODATION.

FINALLY, NOW THAT MR. RABIN HAS HAD HIS TURN IN WASHINGTON, MR. CARTER CAN LOOK AHEAD TO SUBSEQUENT VISITS FROM THE ARAB LEADERS. MR. CARTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE WILL NEED TO PRESS BOTH SIDES TO BEGIN TO INDICATE AREAS OF FLEXIBILITY BEYOND THEIR CURRENTLY STATED POSITIONS. SOME OF THE PRESIDENT'S IDEAS SHOULD PROVE VALUABLE IN THIS CONTEXT.

8. TEXT OF BALTIMORE SUN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "A CARTER FACTOR IN MIDEAST POLITICS":

PRESIDENT CARTER'S FIRST PERSONAL PLUNGE INTO THE MUDDY WATERS OF MIDDLE EASTERN POLITICS HAS CHARACTERISTICALLY CAUSED QUITE A SPLASH. WITH THE BLITHE DISDAIN FOR ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES AND FORMULAS THAT ALREADY HAS LEFT HIS OWN COUNTRYMEN BEMUSED, MR. CARTER DARED TO MENTION THE PUBLICLY UNMENTIONABLE RIGHT OUT IN THE GLARE OF A TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE, AND YET DO IT WITH WHAT SEEMED ENOUGH AMBIGUITY TO LEAVE HIS FUTURE OPTIONS OPEN.

THE ISRAELIS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO HEAR AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT SPEAK OF A "SUBSTANTIAL WITHDRAWAL" FROM THE TERRITORIES THEY OCCUPIED AFTER THE 1967 AND 1973 WARS. BUT NEITHER COULD THE ARABS HAVE BEEN PLEASED WHEN MR. CARTER SPECIFIED THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT "MINOR ADJUSTMENTS" IN THEIR PRE-1967 BORDERS. AS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S SUGGESTION THAT ALL OF ISRAEL'S FRONTIERS
UNCLASSIFIED

MIGHT BE GUARDED BY AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE OPERATING IN AN INTERNATIONAL ZONE 20 KILOMETERS WIDE, THIS IS THE KIND OF PROPOSAL THAT COULD DRAW ALL KINDS OF OBJECTIONS (AND POSSIBLY EVENTUAL ACCEPTANCE) FROM ALL SIDES. ISRAEL, FOR ONE, WANTS THE STRENGTH TO DEFEND ITSELF. THE ARABS REALIZE ANY INTERNATIONALIZED TERRITORY WILL BE THEIR OWN.

MR. CARTER OBVIOUSLY IS BRINGING AN UNORTHODOX NEW STYLE TO U.S. DIPLOMACY THAT FOREIGN MINISTRIES THE WORLD OVER--INCLUDING FOGGY BOTTOM--WILL HAVE TO GET USED TO. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WAS THE VERY MODEL OF THE PROPER DIPLOMAT WHEN HE SWUNG THROUGH THE MIDDLE EAST A FORTNIGHT AGO TOUCHING ALL BASES AND DUSTING UP NONE. THIS, HOWEVER, IS ONLY ONE TIER OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. ANOTHER IS THE FREE-WHEELING OPERATION BEING CONDUCTED BY UNITED NATIONS AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG. AND THE MOST IMPORTANT IS THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF, A MAN NOT AFRAID TO MISSPEAK ON OCCASION AS HE STRIVES FOR NEW AMERICAN APPROACHES.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

MR. CARTER'S MEETING WITH ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN THIS WEEK WAS ONLY THE FIRST OF A ROUND-ROBIN WITH MIDEAST GOVERNMENT CHIEFS. WHILE MR. RABIN WAS RESIGNED IN ADVANCE TO CERTAIN ARMS SALES RESTRICTIONS ALREADY ADOPTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION, HE MUST HAVE BEEN PLEASED BY THE PRESIDENT'S FERVENT REAFFIRMATION OF THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL. YET MR. RABIN, WHO FACES A TOUGH ELECTION IN MID-MAY, WAS IN NO POSITION TO ALTER HIS

NATION'S ESTABLISHED POSITIONS. CURRENT INITIATIVES WILL HAVE TO COME FROM ARAB LEADERS WHO ARE WRESTLING WITH THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. HENCEFORTH THEY, LIKE MR. RABIN, WILL HAVE TO CALCULATE THAT THERE IS A NEW CARTER FACTOR IN MIDDLE EAST POLITICS. THERE IS DANGER HERE, BUT ALSO HOPE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE053457
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RONEILL:RGH/DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770083-0386
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770372/aaaacllt.tel
Line Count: 519
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6aee3dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3147021
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 10 PRESS PLAY OF PRESIDENT\'S MIDDLE EAST REMARKS
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US, XF, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6aee3dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009